

- (14) Strict enforcement of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994.
- (15) Soft loans to ensure mobility of the ANMs will be increased.
- (16) The 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment has frozen the number of representatives in the Lok Sabha (on the basis of population) at 1971 Census levels. The freeze is currently valid until 2001, and has as an active incentive for State Governments to fearlessly pursue the agenda for population stabilisation. The freeze needs to be extended until 2026.

Hence no separate legislation is needed for providing incentives and disincentives for adoption of the small family form.

- (d) The following five States are having the lowest Crude Birth Rate per thousand live births as per Sample Registration System (SRS):

1. Kerala	18.0
2. Tamil Nadu	19.3
3. West Bengal	20.7
4. Maharashtra	21.1
5. Punjab	21.5

#### **Subsidising of AIDS drugs**

3965. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage\* of patients of AIDS is increasing alarmingly in the country as compared to previous five years;
- (b) if so, what preventive and precautionary measures are being adopted to contain this deadly disease from spreading all over the country;
- (c) whether it is a fact that high prices of drugs to combat AIDS are keeping patients from taking these drugs; and
- (d) if so, whether Government are proposing to substantially subsidise these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The number of AIDS patients Is increasing because the infected cases of past years arc now turning into full blown AIDS.

Government of India has launched comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme in all States and UTs including the following keys:

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technicals, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

(c) and (d) Government of India is providing drugs for the management of HIV/AIDS related opportunistic infections in Public Sector Hospitals.

#### **Special status to AIIMS**

3966. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a plan to grant special status to the AIIMS, and
- (b) if so, what would be its benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The All